

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original): An actuator and containment device for a syringe of the type comprising at least a barrel and piston means displaceable within the barrel to expel any contents of the barrel, usually via a hollow needle, said device comprising a hollow body, a spring and a plunger, in which respect the hollow body has internal latching formations and is adapted to house the syringe barrel and piston means with any needle projecting outside the body, the spring is disposed to act between the body and the syringe barrel, which barrel, in initial use of the device, is retained against the force of the spring by means of the latching formations, and the plunger is slidably located in the body to displace the piston means of the syringe, provides means whereby the latching formations of the body can be disengaged from the syringe barrel enabling the spring to retract the entire syringe, including any needle, into the hollow body, and also provides a chamber for reception of at least a portion of the syringe after the spring has so acted, characterised in that the plunger has deflectable edge members whereby it can abut and displace the piston rod and the hollow body has internal deflector means which serve to deflect the edge members of the plunger out of the path of retraction of the syringe barrel.

2. (original): A device according to claim 1 wherein the hollow body is generally of cylindrical form and has a longitudinal axis and also defines a main chamber in which the plunger is slidably located and a forward chamber which is of smaller cross-section than the main chamber and extends from the main chamber beyond the end of plunger movement to house the syringe barrel in initial use of the device.

3. (original): A device according to claim 2 wherein the latching formations of the body are provided in the main chamber of the body adjacent to the forward chamber but lying radially outwardly with respect to the forward chamber.

4. (currently amended): A device according to claim 2 or 3 wherein the latching formations extend generally parallel with the longitudinal axis of the hollow body to free ends which have radially inwardly directed catch means for retaining the syringe barrel against the force of the spring, the latching formations also being deflectable radially outwardly to enable capture of the syringe barrel by said catch means and its later release therefrom.

5. (currently amended): A device according to claim 4 or 1 wherein the plunger and the latching formations have co-operating surface portions whereby the plunger can effect radially outward deflection of the latching formations to release the syringe barrel from the catch means.

6. (currently amended): A device according to any of claims 2 to 5 or 1 wherein the hollow body and the plunger have mutually co-operating guide means which extend substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the body and minimize relative rotation between the body and the plunger.

7. (currently amended): A device according to any preceding claim or 1 wherein the hollow body is moulded in one piece and the latching formations are integrally moulded therewith.

8. (currently amended): A device according to any preceding claim or 1 wherein the latching formations are symmetrically arranged in the interior of the hollow body.

9. (currently amended): A device according to any preceding claim or 1 wherein the deflectable edge members are symmetrically arranged at the forward edge of the plunger.

10. (currently amended): A device according to any preceding claim or 1 consisting of only a hollow body, a spring and a plunger.

11. (original): An assembly comprising a syringe and an actuator and containment device for said syringe as claimed in any preceding claim, said syringe comprising a barrel, a hollow needle, and piston means displaceable within the barrel to expel contents of the barrel via said needle, wherein the hollow body of the device houses the syringe barrel and piston means with the needle initially projecting outside the body and the spring is disposed inside the body and acts between the body of the device and the barrel of the syringe.

12. (currently amended): An assembly comprising a syringe and an actuator and containment device for said syringe as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, said syringe comprising at least a barrel and piston means displaceable within the barrel to expel contents of the barrel, usually via a needle, wherein the hollow body of the device houses the syringe barrel and piston means and the spring is disposed inside the body and acts between the body of the device and the barrel of the syringe.